

The Center for Arts and Humanities (CAH)

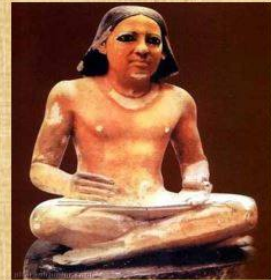
Presents

Post-Eurocentric Poetics: Arabic Jinās in ancient Egyptian Literature

by
Dr. Hany Rashwan

in Building 37
Tuesday, November 14th
@ 2pm

In this lecture Dr. Rashwan argues that ancient Egyptian rhetorical devices are most productively studied on a comparative basis and that Arabic, as a kindred language, offers a fruitful platform for exploring and analyzing these literary devices. I deploy the central principle of the comparative linguistic system: "Languages should never be compared in isolation if close relatives are at hand" (Greenberg, 1971, 22-3) and argue that it is mainly relevant when dealing with a 'dead' language. The lecture demonstrates how linguistic kinship can form a fruitful standpoint for exploring the rhetorical devices of such related languages. The linguistic kinship between ancient Egyptian and Arabic offers an excellent starting point to stop the automatic application of *Greco-centric* rhetorical concepts, without fully understanding their confusing Eurocentric background.



Dr. Hany Rashwan is an Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Arts and Humanities at the AUB. He holds a Ph.D. in Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies from SOAS, University of London. He specializes in Comparative Historical Rhetoric. His research offers new criticism and analysis of ancient Egyptian literary-rhetoric based on classical Arabic poetics, with a full consideration of the unique visual nature of the ancient Egyptian writing. His research uses a detailed understanding of literary devices as the means to better understand the intellectual life of the rhetorical context. He is currently working on the differences between Arabic *Balāgha* (literary rhetoric) and *Khitabh* (oral public speeches) and how such understanding could positively impact the young discipline of comparative rhetoric. His research bridges the two disciplines of 'comparative literature' and 'comparative rhetoric' to acknowledge the relationship between the 'poetic form' and its 'eloquent content.' He is publishing a book with AUC University Press titled: *Literariness and Aesthetics of Ancient Egyptian Literature: Arabic Jinās in post-Eurocentric Poetics*.

